Volume 22 No. 3 Page one NOVEMBER 1977



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

8 PM St. Paul's Parish House 2430 'k' Street, NW

November Speakers Discuss Modernizing Traffic Procedures

The November meeting will feature representatives from the D.C. Department of Transportation. They will describe the proposals for modernizing various traffic-related procedures, including a "civilian corps" for parking tickets, impoundment and booting, and transferring adjudication of minor traffic violations from the D.C. Superior Court system to DOT "administrative judges."

ANC UPDATE — SQUARES 121 & 73

Sq. 121. The ANC & DON'T TEAR IT DOWN have filed Motions for Reconsideration, which will be heard by the Zoning Commission on December 8, on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) application granted to George Washington University.

Sq. 73. Also to be considered on December 8 is a proposed change for a portion of Square 73 (22nd & K Sts., NW), from R-5-D (high-density residential) to C-3-B (Commercial), in order to erect an office building. This is Zoning Commission Case No. 77-35.



ANC ELECTION RESULTS

(As of Nov. 9)

SMD-01	Ann Loikows:
SMD-02	Diane Schilke
SMD-03	Marthlu Bledsoe
SMD-04	Hal Davitt
SMD-05	Steve Levy
SMD-06	Jim Slicer
SMD-07	Kevin Callwood

School Board

Ward II	Alaire Rieffel
At large	Frank Shaffer-Corona
	Barbara Lett Simmons

The Fashionable West End

by Antoinette J. Lee

In the post-Civil War era, an elite residential neighborhood developed between the White House and the naval installation on "Observatory Hill." It ambiance was described by Jessie Fant Evans, a George Washington University graduate, a preservation advocate, and author of several short histories in the 1930's for the university's General Alumni Association. (Evans thought it fitting that the alumni should be the "natural keepers" of Foggy Bottom's architectural traditions.) She described the social climate of the area as follows: "Probably in few cities in the world were so many families of similar breeding, culture, social standard and ideals congregated together in happy homes as were to be found in this vicinity during the early Eighties."

The proximity to centers of political and military power made this area desirable to naval and army officers. The atmosphere of the enclave was comparable to that of Embassy Row. "G Street in the '80's fairly rang with the wheels of carriages. On Wednesdays, the official calling day for the Army and Navy set, there was no gayer or more colorful street in all of Washington."

As contrasted with the humble frame residences in Foggy Bottom's low ground to the south of E Street, the thoroughfares running along this high ground area (between E and I Streets) were lined with substantial single, duplex, and rowhouses. Here almost all residences were of brick and were typical of the Washington rowhouses that could be found on Capitol Hill. Mansard roofs, stained glass, bay windows, iron railings, and pressed brick were only a few of the architectural features that characterized these houses. Some of the single houses were surrounded by sizeable gardens. Interspersed among these dwellings were churches, schools, and institutions like the Lenthall Home for Widows.

With the removal of the Naval Observatory to Massachusetts Avenue in the 1890's and the migration of the smart set to newer residential areas, this section of the city was ripe for a major change in occupancy.

In 1912, George Washington University moved into 2023 G Street. Observers of the surviving architectural feast remarked at the potential benefits the university might derive from the setting. In 1931, a writer for the *American Motorist* recorded: "There is a fragrant breath of history around every corner of this campus. . . . Since it is the 110th year of the University, it seems appropriate that the buildings to which it moved recently should be mellowed and heavy with old associations."

The disappearance of these houses in the face of University expansion policies were bemoaned by Jessie Fant Evans in *Hamburg: The Colonial Town that Became the Seat of the George Washington University* (1935). Evans saw the area as offering a refreshing pause amid the booming development of central Washington.

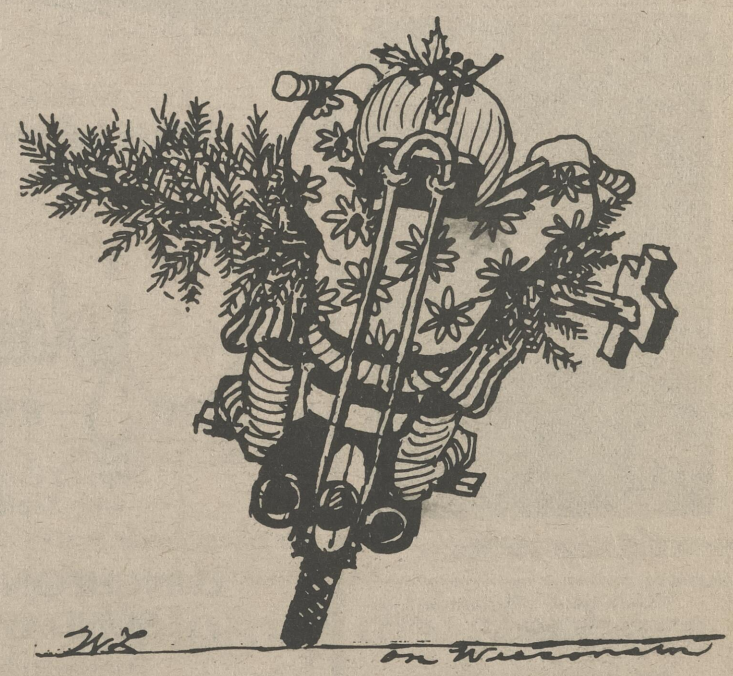
For a university that had uprooted itself several times within its century-long history, Evans suggested that the university might express its longevity through the retention of the nineteenth century residences. "Although the George Washington University is illustrative of the truth that scholarship and teaching are not dependent upon bricks and mortar or stained glass . . . still we who are devoted to the University envisage arising on the banks of the Potomac an academic community which in physical aspect as well as in educational service will fulfill the dream of him whose name it bears."

New Community Information Service

Would the right bit of information help solve your problem? Would you like to know how to arrange hot lunches for the elderly or where to go to pick your own fruit or vegetables? If so, try the new Community Information Service at your nearest D.C. Public Library.

The Community Information Service is based on an up-to-date card file of a wide range of services available in Washington. The information is organized and indexed at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library. Copies of the file are placed in every branch of the D.C. Public Library and in the libraries of all public junior and senior high schools and in the libraries of the University of the District of Columbia, 101 locations in all.

Your local librarian can now provide you not only with books, but with useful informatin on almost any topic. The next time you have a need to know, try our library. We have free accurate information about almost everything. You may get in touch with the Community Information Service by calling 727-1126, or by calling West End Library 727-1397.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from
Foggy Bottom News
See you in January

JANUARY FBA MEETING—Monday, January 30, 1978
(No December Meeting)

seen around the Bottom



Mary E. Healy
(art work by J. Cooper)

The HOLIDAY SEASON is upon us—seems like I just put my Christmas decorations away. A few very nice things are happening to us in the Bottom during the holidays:

Guest Quarters is again this year giving Foggy Bottom Residents a real break on a rate reduction for visiting relatives and friends. (See their ad this paper). This reduction applies ONLY to FOGGYBOTTOMITES. And, for each rental night GQ will donate $3.00 to your Foggy Bottom Association. Last year this came to quite a tidy sum and it helped a great deal in meeting our expenses.

And, the FBA has arranged to have the METROPOLITAN POLICE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB Choir sing CHRISTMAS CAROLS for us on Christmas Day. They will sing from the JUAREZ STATUE PARK at Virginia and New Hampshire Avenues. More details later re time. The FBA is making a contribution to the Club and I will be most pleased to accept any contributions you care to make. The CLub is a very important part of our City and serves a very useful purpose. Contribution checks should be made payable to METROPOLITAN POLICE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB (tax deductible).

* * *

MELITA RODECK AND DR. HARRIS must feed the birds in their front yards some special vitamins; you can hear them chirping away at 9 o'clock at night; sounds very nice.

MCLACHLEN BANK BUILDING on Va. Avenue is sporting some new plantings—a plot of azeleas; should be very pretty this spring.

You would think that is was spring! Several new HOUSE PAINT jobs are going on around the neighborhood. It really changes the entire appearance of the houses and improves the whole area.

Remember to renew your FBA MEMBERSHIP or join the Foggy Bottom Association. 1977/78 dues now in order. New members will be most welcome and are really needed; needed to give us a "power base" to get things done for the area. The $3.00 annual dues are really just a token. If we had to pay for all the voluntary effort which goes into keeping on top of things which effect our area we would never make it.

AT the end of this year I want to thank Bob Charles, our President, and all the officers and directors of the FBA, as well as the ANCs and many other hard working FBA members, for a year of solid effort and accomplishments.

My PRIDE remarks drew a great deal of "agreement" comments plus some comments "that they just wish they knew how to stimulate some pride into their neighbors". Any suggestions? I want to compliment those residents who do show a great deal of pride; you make the Bottom a very pleasant and interesting place to live.

* * *

A New helper was added this month to the St. Mary's FBA NEWS DISTRIBUTION TEAM. MATTIE SHIPPEN, a born in the Bottom lady, counted those papers out with that old Bureau of Engraving and Printing paper money shuffle that made duck soup out of the total job. Thanks, Mattie.

* * *

Beware crossing the sidewalk in front of any PARKING LOT EXIT. We very sadly report the death of KATHERINE SMITTLE, long time resident of the Potomac Plaza, who died recently as a result of being run down by a car which was being backed out of an office building parking lot. Katherine was a gentle, kind and pleasant person; she will be missed by her many friends. I plan to check to see what the DC Regulations say about having STOP SIGNS at all parking area exits.

If you participated in the Police Department's ID PROGRAM and had articles in your car or your tires marked remember if you get new tires you will have to have them remarked.

There have been some BURGLARIES AND LARCENIES in our area recently; in houses, apartments, office buildings and on the street. Fortunately most of the culprits have been caught. Caution: Don't leave valuables in your car to attract thieves; a professional thief can get them out in 30 seconds (literally) even with the car door locked. We are extremely fortunate in our area; our crime record is extremely low. Let's keep it that way—don't encourage burglaries or thefts.

* * *

Another AWARD for one of our neighborhood restaurants. THE INTRIGUE at 824 NH Ave. was given an award for QUALITY OF SANITATION WORTHY OF RECOGNITION. This is a DC Dept. Of Environmental Services Award given after you have maintained a rating of 90 or better for 10 months. Peter and Barbara Laricos of the Intrigue are very proud of this award and are trying hard to get another one.

FAITH! It does pay off. I just made a complaint about aircraft noise—to a recorder, I'm sorry to say. But, believe it or not, 15 minutes later a real live FAAer called me back; thanked me for my complaint and said he would check it out immediately. EUREKA!!!

The Potomac Plaza did their good deed for the day when they got the RESCUE SQUAD pdq for an area resident who had some kind of attack and fell in their driveway. Quick action on the part of some of the PP residents, their manager and the Rescue Squad was really great.

CARL HARDING tells me that he was one of the very first advertisers in the FB News; he is very proud of the fact that he has been a continuous advertiser ever since.

The FBA MEETING in October was a lively one with SCHOOL BOARD and ANC CANDIDATES. More of you should come to the meetings; your imput can help make them more and more worthwhile for the betterment of our area and the city in general.

* * *

Starting November 14th the WATERGATE FOTO & FRAMING (In the Watergate Mall) is sponsoring an EXHIBITION of PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS by CARLOS PAEZ-VILARO, a most admired contemporary artist from Uruguay. Paez-Vilaro is currently in Washington on loan from his government to the Organization of American States collaborating with the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America. Along with Paez-Vilaro's works Watergate Foto will host the premier showing in the United States of paintings by his daughter, Ago, Magdalena Paez-Rodrigues.

Smoke Violations (from buildings). Report them when you see them to 767-7372. Each single improvement in the environment in our area will add up to a better community. That goes for noisy trash trucks running around with their protective door open exposing the trash and emitting foul odors. Get their name and call the Trash Company. If that doesn't work call the City.

* * *

FBA to request a TRAFFIC STUDY of the Virginia, New Hampshire, 24th, 25th and adjacent areas. Continuous and increasing volume of complaints make this an urgent request.

Seems like I just said this the other day—"As there will not be a December issue of the Foggy Bottom News I take this opportunity to wish you a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON". Have a good time with your relatives and friends and stay healthy. I hope to see some of you at the November 28th FBA Meeting where I can make this a personal greeting. "SEEN AROUND" will be back in January 1978.

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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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The opinions expressed in this publications are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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FB Farmer

Dooryard gardens are the habitat of birds and cats, but despite the food chain implications, the songbirds don't give ground; In the dooryard garden they may find haven in the Washington thorn, a spring-flowering smallish tree with a multi-stem trunk from which spread close together, thorny branches.

You can see them in two rows along Virginia Ave. between Juarez/Watergate Circle and Howard Johnsons. Their branch ends arch gracefully and become pendant-like from the weight of numerous clusters of red berries. Now that the leaves have gone you can count the nests. On some bright blue morning after a storm you'll see large numbers of crested Cedar waxwings (winter visitors from the North) feasting there on the ripened berries.

The seeds of the Chinese scholar trees along the side-walks of Water-gate Circle have long been ripe. In October the Starlings began their gymnas-tics of getting at the down-hanging elongated seed pods, and you'll hear the penetrat-ing bird call whistle that in summertime was not noticed.



If your senses delight in song and flight there is other vegetation for a congenial habitat. Humming birds come to the Lilac and in mid-September Butterfly bush (a medium sized shrub with gracefully arching branches tipped with blue blossoms) will attract great numbers of the Canada to Mexico migrating Monarch butterflies.

William S. Lattin.



DON'T FORGET: 1) Water your plants well before final freeze-up and again whenever there is a thaw. Winter-kill is often more due to lack of ground water to replace that taken by drying winter wind rather than from extreme cold. 2) Dormant feeding with root-benefiting foods (5-15-5) will strengthen root systems during the winter when other plant processes have stoped. Fertilizing old bulb plantings is most often overlooked. Carefully work bonemeal into the soil about the bulbs for larger flowers and better bulbs for later transplanting.

* * *

To look for in December: Broom sage and Red stemmed dogwood. The Broom sage (stiff-stalked like wheat and orangish in color) brightens roadsides and fields when the green has gone. In some areas of Virginia (Orange County) entire fields and portions of the entire countryside will be orange in the early morning sun. Its worth the drive on Route 3 west of Fredericksburg to see it. The Red stemmed dogwood seems brighter too on the G.W. Memorial Parkway upstream from Key Bride along the Roosevelt Island parking area.

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from
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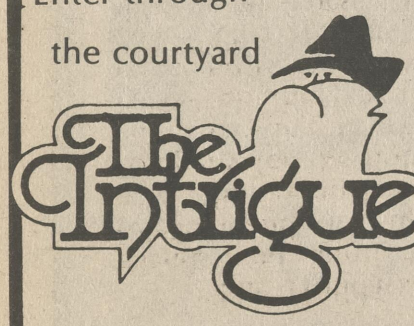
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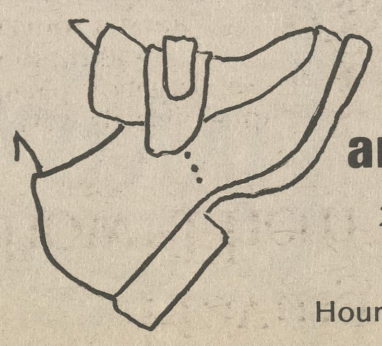
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Dec. 9–11	Man on the Roof Harlan County, U.S.A.
Dec. 12–13	A Man for All Seasons The Lion in Winter
Dec. 14–15	Burn! Sacco And Vanzetti

Having Holiday Guests? Show Them to the Guest Quarters.

The Holidays are very special, with friends and family gathered together to celebrate and catch up on old times.

But as much as you enjoy having company for the holidays, it can be an exhausting experience if you haven't got the space to relax and be the hosts you'd like to be.

This Holiday season show your guests to the Guest Quarters. Instead of folding out the couch and making room on a shelf in the medicine cabinet, let the Guest Quarters staff show them to their suite.

Guest Quarters has no single rooms, because we're not a hotel. We only have suites, each with a living room, bedroom and fully equipped kitchen. And because we're small and have no conventions, our staff will do everything possible to make your guests feel at home.



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